

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 1067

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASSXX

SUBJ: CHANGES IN FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM (FMTP)

REF: STATE 051768

1. THE SWISS PARTICIPATE IN THE FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM ON AN FMS CASH BASIS ONLY. THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN SEEKING GRANT AID OR SALES CREDIT. WITH REGARD TO EFFECT OF INCREASED COSTS ON FUTURE FMTP, FOLLOWING ARE KEYED TO PARA 5 OF REFTEL:

A. BECAUSE THE SWISS ARE ALREADY AWARE OF IMPENDING RISE IN FMTP COSTS AND HAVE EXPERIENCED RISING COSTS IN RELATED FIELDS, THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THERE WILL BE ANY IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. HOWEVER, IF FMTP COSTS RISE SIGNIFICANTLY, SWISS COULD WELL REDUCE THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS SENT TO THE US ANNUALLY (6-7 IN RECENT YEARS) TO A COMMENSURATE DEGREE.

B. SWISS HAVE GREATEST INTEREST IN THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE AT LEAVENWORTH FOR WHICH THEY CURRENTLY RECEIVE TWO SPACES ANNUALLY. THE SWISS PAY FOR THIS TRAINING, AS FOR ALL OTHERS. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE SWISS WOULD REDUCE THEIR PARTICIPATION AT THE COMBAT ARMS SCHOOLS IN THE U.S., RATHER THAN AT LEAVENWORTH.

C. THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE LEVEL TRAINING
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OFFERS THE GREATEST BENEFIT TO U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST IN

TERMS OF BILATERAL REALTIONS. THE SWISS OFFICERS SELECTED FOR THESE COURSES ARE MORE MATURE AND OFTEN MORE SENIOR THAN THOSE SELECTED FOR THE BRANCH SCHOOLS, AND OFTEN RECEIVE TOP COMMANDS SUBSEQUENTLY.

D. PROBABLY NO PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED COURSES WILL BE COMPLETELY ABANDONED BY THE SWISS DUE TO THE RISING COST FACTOR ALONE. MORE LIKELY THEY WILL REDUCE PARTICIPATION TO A LEVEL COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR BUDGET. THEY WILL AND HAVE ABANDONED COURSES WHICH ARE CONSIDERED TOO SHORT TO JUSTIFY DISTANT TRAVEL BY AN OFFICER AND HIS FAMILY.

E. NO DOUBT THE SWISS HAVE ALREADY INVESTIGATED ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION. CURRENTLY, THEY HAVE AN ANNUAL QUOTA OF ONE SPACE EACH IN THE FRG, ENGLAND AND ITALY. THEY SEND AN OFFICER TO FRANCE ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS DUE TO COURSE LENGTH. ANY OF THESE COUNTRIES COULD MEET PART OF THE REQUIREMENT CURRENTLY FILLED BY THE U S. WHILE MILITARY COMPETENCE PROBABLY WOULD NOT SUFFER, INTEREST IN U S DOCTRINE AND MATERIEL WOULD CERTAINLY FLAG. SWISS MILITARY OFFICERS, IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY OTHER ARTICULATED DOCTRINE, ACCEPT THAT TAUGHT IN U S SCHOOLS. CONSEQUENTLY, U S MATERIEL DESIGNED AND DEVELOPED TO FIT OUR OWN DOCTRINE, IS EQUALLY ATTRACTIVE TO THOSE SWISS WHO HAVE ADOPTED OUR APPROACH TO MILITARY PROBLEMS.
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